



# Sam Brownback

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## News Release

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## **SENATE PASSES RESOLUTION CONDEMNING SUDANESE GOVERNMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, TERRORISM**

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Senate yesterday passed by unanimous consent, a resolution sponsored by U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, condemning the National Islamic Front (NIF) government for its support of terrorism and its continued human rights violations.

“With this resolution, the United States Senate has made an unmistakable stand for freedom,” Brownback said. “After visiting the Sudan earlier this month and personally witnessing the effects of the human rights abuses brutally practiced by the Sudanese government against its own people, I called on the government to stop the terror of civilian bombing, slavery, government-manufactured famine, and forced religious conversions.

“My trip to Sudan confirmed what I already had heard about -- this is among the most victimized civilian population in the world. The statistics attest -- 1.9 million dead in the last decade, 4.3 million pushed out of their ancient homelands and forced to live on the edge of starvation -- making this the largest refugee population in the world,” Brownback said.

The resolution by the Senate: 1) strongly condemns the NIF government in Sudan for its support for terrorism and its continued human rights violations; 2) strongly deplores the slave raids in southern Sudan and calls on the NIF government to end immediately the practice of slavery in Sudan; 3) calls for the United Nations Security Council to condemn slavery, implement the existing air embargo on the NIF government, reform Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) to be more independent from the NIF, determine whether or not the war policy of the NIF constitutes genocide, and post human rights monitors throughout Sudan; 4) calls on the president to instruct the Agency for International Development (AID) to provide additional support to and coordinate activities with nongovernmental organizations involved in relief work in Sudan, and enhance the independence of OLS from the NIF, including by removing that government’s power of automatic veto over its operation.

Wednesday, the Senate passed separate legislation giving humanitarian aid to the southern Sudanese. The U.S. currently gives aid to Sudan, but it is primarily distributed through Operation Lifeline Sudan, and is given to those who support the Khartoum government.

Brownback is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and sits on the African Affairs Subcommittee. He is also a commissioner on the Helsinki Commission (the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe).